

What is Claimed is:

1. A method for evidencing postage on a mailpiece comprising the steps of:

receiving at a data center postal information relating to a mailpiece, said
5 postal information including recipient address information for the mailpiece;

generating a digital token for the mailpiece, said digital token including
encrypted information for the mailpiece based on said recipient address
information;

creating a transaction record, said transaction record including the digital
10 token and the postal information;

signing the transaction record;

storing the transaction record in a database; and

performing value added services using the transaction record.

15 2. A system for dispensing postage value, comprising:

a data center communicatively coupled to a plurality of remote
processors, said remote processors initiating requests to the data center for
dispensing postage value to be printed by a printer controlled by the remote
processor, the data center comprising:

20 means for communicating with the remote processors, said
communicating means receiving said requests for dispensing postage
value;

means coupled to the communicating means for storing data
records, said data records including user account information and meter
25 account information associated with a plurality of users of users accessing
the data center through said remote processors;

means coupled to the communicating means and the storing
means for metering using said user account information and said meter
account information; and

30 means coupled to the communicating means, the storing means
and the metering means for performing administrative functions within the
data center.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein the communicating means includes a communication server, the storage means includes a database server, the means for performing administrative functions includes a function server, and
5 said metering means includes a secure meter box.

4. The system of claim 3 wherein each user has at least one meter account, each said meter account being assigned to one of the users accessing the data center.

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5. The system of claim 3 wherein said secure meter box and said function server control the dispensing of postage value from each said meter account.

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6. The system of claim 3 wherein said administrative functions include creating and signing transaction records which are stored at said database server, each of said records corresponding to each postage dispensing transaction.

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7. The system of claim 6 wherein said function server provides value-added services, said value-added services including on-line rating, special mail services, address cleansing and postal coding services.

8. The system of claim 6 wherein said administrative functions include performing on-line track of all postal transaction processed by the data center.

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